

wrong. We were wrong. We thought they would come in good faith from the administration and work with Members on this.

Have they? No. People have said: I am tired; it is time for vacation. Let's go home.

Our specialty crops needed more money for commodity purchases and other forms of support. All of our production farmers needed assistance. Where were we? The administration says farm income is at an all-time high. Guess what. Do you know why it is at an all-time high? Because the rural economy has been in the tanks for years. Their energy costs are at an all-time high and rising. Their fertilizer input costs are at an all-time high. Their energy costs, diesel—name it—implement costs, the costs of buying machinery, and the costs of meeting environmental regulations, every one of them is at an all-time high, and many of our States have producers whose farmer income, 50 percent of it, is government payment. Why? Because we have not provided for our agricultural producers in terms of good, solid, trade opportunities and global marketplace shares because we have not taken into consideration what it means to those individuals to produce a safe and abundant and affordable food supply for those who enjoy it.

We enjoy the most environmentally sound agricultural products in the world coming out of this country. That is all going away unless we make an obligation to production agriculture, that when it comes time to being there for them, we will be there, instead of just saying all year long: Just wait. Just wait until we get through all of these other things and then we will be there for you.

I look at some of my local spinach growers in Arkansas who are not far from local canneries yet find it impossible sometimes to market their spinach just down the road because they can be outbid by spinach that is coming in from Mexico, grown with chemicals we banned over 10 years ago.

What are we doing for production agriculture, to make sure that you and I will continue to have that environmentally well grown product for our children and for future generations? What is our response? Give them less than they need, close up shop, and fly home for vacation. Why? Because the House is going home, we can't do anything.

Well if the House jumps off the bridge, are we going to jump off the bridge, too? What if the administration says it is just not that important; we are not going to come over to negotiate with you to come to some middle ground that is going to provide our producers the 100 percent of AMTA from 1999 levels that we promised them back in February? I don't know. I reject that. I still believe I am here to do

the best job I can possibly do for those American producers. I reject the argument that it is too late. I reject the argument that we cannot give them what they need.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORZINE). The time of the Senator has expired.

Mrs. LINCOLN. I ask unanimous consent for an additional 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. LINCOLN. I reject the argument that we cannot stay here and fight for our American producers and our farmers.

Farmers themselves say that government is just waiting until they die away, that the family farmer is gone and we can just depend on corporate America to provide us what we need.

I look around at some of the fights I have been fighting this year on behalf of aquaculture and fish farmers in Arkansas. They are having to compete with misleading labeling from other countries that are claiming they are producing that kind of product which we produce here, a farm-raised, grain-fed product, when we know what is coming in the country from Vietnam is not that. It is raised on the Mekong River under unbelievable environmental conditions. Yet it has been sent to this country in misleading ways and sold to the consumers here.

We are dealing with a crisis in agricultural production. I come to the floor saddened. As I look around at this body, I realize that the Members of the Senate years ago used to travel here from their home farms in faraway States and spend the time that they did to debate the issues of this country, all the while still remembering where they came from, the heartland that they represented, the communities and the agricultural producers. In my home State of Arkansas, when that farmer is out in the field and he is bringing in his crop, he is picking cotton or he is combining beans or he is combining rice and gets to the end of a long hot day, and the Sun is setting and he sees a thunderstorm coming out of the west, do you know what. He doesn't pack it up and go home. He turns the lights on, on his combine, and he keeps going, because he believes in producing for the American people and the world the safest, most abundant and affordable food supply in this world, and he does no less.

I, for one, think the Senate could do better. I think we must.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent there be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 min-

utes, and the following Senators be added to the current list of speakers: Senator KENNEDY for 20 minutes, Senator BYRD, Senator HOLLINGS, Senator CORZINE, and Senator SMITH of Oregon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EMERGENCY AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I know for me to speak on the floor about agriculture raises some eyebrows, let's say. I have found that as I, along with others, have been trying to help my colleague from Vermont who has been fighting a lonely battle, for Northeast agriculture. When I spoke in the Democratic caucus, I heard someone sort of singing "Old McDonald," and other things. So people ask, why am I so interested in agriculture, coming from a State such as New York?

For one thing, people forget how much agriculture there is in the State of New York. We are a large agricultural producer. We rank third in dairy production. We rank second or third, depending on the year, in apple production. We are high up in onions and many kinds of specialty products. In fact—and these are numbers that even surprised me—New York has 38,000 farmers. That is 13,500 more farmers than Idaho; 10,400 more than Montana; 7,700 more than North Dakota; 5,500 more than South Dakota; and 28,800 more than Wyoming. So those States which are regarded as agricultural States have fewer farmers, many fewer, than my State of New York.

We do have a large city—we have several large cities. Thank God, we have lots of other kinds of industries. But agriculture is a vital industry.

The second reason I care about agriculture—and it has been new to me; 18 years in the House serving a district in a corner of Brooklyn and Queens, we didn't have any farmers—is meeting the people who do it. I met one family with a farm in their family in Suffolk County for 12 generations. You look into their eyes and see how hard-working they are and see how productive they are, and you see the land and God's beauty in a wonderful way give forth fruits and vegetables and crops. You see how hard they work and you feel for them.

They are on a frustrating treadmill. It seems they work harder and harder but survival in agriculture is even more difficult for them. You look into their eyes and you realize something else. These farmers are the breeder reactor, the place where American values grow and are nurtured. It has been so since the Republic was founded, and it still is. The values of hard work and teamwork and self-reliance and individuality, for which our country is known and blessed, have started on the farm.